

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6266

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

COMANTDEFCON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 1425

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GJ

SUBJ: SOME POLICY CONSIDERATIONS BEARING ON GRENADA'S
INDEPENDENCE

REF: BRIDGETOWN .426

1. THE REFTTEL WHICH FOLLOWS IMMEDIATELY AND WHICH SHOULD BE READ IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MESSAGE DESCRIBES THE TWO-DAY VISIT TO BARBADOS OF GRENADA'S PREMIER ERIC GAIRY, THE SUBJECTS WHICH WERE COVERED DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS, AND CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WE HAVE MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT, ALTHOUGH NOT TO GAIRY. THOSE IN THE DEPARTMENT PREVIOUSLY FAMILIAR WITH OUR POLICY TOWARD THE EASTERN ISLANDS OF THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN ARE QUITE AWARE OF THE RESTRAINTS IMPOSED UPON USG ACTION HERE BECAUSE DIRECT US NATIONAL INTERESTS ARE NOT GREAT IN SOME OF THE TERRITORIES, INCLUDING GRENADA. VIEWS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN APPEARING IN CERTAIN CONGRESSIONAL, ACADEMIC, AND INTERNATIONAL AND JOURNALISTIC CIRCLES, HOWEVER, WHICH INDICATE THAT US RELATIONS WITH CERTAIN COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN AREAS NEED A NEW LOOK. CERTAINLY
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MORE THINKERS ARE NOW INTERESTED; THEY MAY BE AHEAD OF US.

2. I BELIEVE THAT THE TIME HAS NOW ARRIVED WHEN REGARDLESS OF THE LIMITATIONS OF THE CASP, WHICH TENDS TO FOCUS ON INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES RATHER THAN ON REGIONAL CONSIDERATIONS, WE MUST VIEW GRENADA NOT IN ISOLATION, NOT AS JUST ANOTHER GEOGRAPHICALLY CLOSE ANNOYING MINI-STATE, BUT RATHER AS ANOTHER LINK IN THE CHAIN OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES, WHICH THROUGH CARICOM ARE NOW BEGINNING TO BECOME MORE OF A REGIONAL FORCE OR AT LEAST TO THE EXTENT THEY ACT IN CONCERT IN THEIR FOREIGN RELATIONS.

IF GRENADA IS TO BECOME A VOTING MEMBER OF THE UN AND THE OAS, WHICH SEEMS LIKELY EVENTUALLY, AND BEGINS TO FOLLOW THE LEAD OF THE OTHER INDEPENDENT EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES (TRINIDAD, GUYANA, BARBADOS) IN SUCH MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S. AS RELATIONS WITH CUBA, THE THIRD WORLD, LOS, ETC., IT WOULD BE WISE FOR US TO PROMOTE THE US NATIONAL INTEREST IN MAINTAINING OPEN CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH GRENADA AND HER FAVORABLE DISPOSITION TOWARDS THE US RATHER THAN PERMIT GRENADA TO BECOME AN ISOLATED UNDERBELLY OF RACIAL HOSTILITY AND ANTI-AMERICANISM BECAUSE OF U.S. NEGLECT. WE CAN ONLY HAVE SOME DEGREE OF INFLUENCE AND COOPERATION WITH GRENADA IF WE ACCEPT THE INEVITABILITY OF GRENADA'S INDEPENDENCE AND RECOGNIZE THAT ALTHOUGH GRENADA IS INSIGNIFICANT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF U.S. INVESTMENT AND PERHAPS U.S. NATIONAL DEFENSE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE GOG, BEGINNING WITH THE INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES. WE CAN ONLY HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH ALL THIS BY MEASURING UP TO GAIRY'S EXPECTATIONS AT INDEPENDENCE, AT LEAST TO SOME DEGREE. THIS MEANS NOT ONLY PARTICIPATING APPROPRIATELY IN THE INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES BUT ALSO CONTRIBUTING A TANGIBLE TOKEN TO GRENADA'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AS AN INDEPENDENCE GIFT. OUR PRESENT POLICY OF CHANNELING ASSISTANCE ONLY THROUGH THE CDB MAY HAVE TO SUFFICE IN THE LONG RUN, BUT OUR EFFECTIVE BILATERAL RELATIONS, AT LEAST IN THE SHORT RUN, WILL DEPEND ON SOME FORM OF MODEST AID AT INDEPENDENCE.

3. THIS, THEN, IS THE RATIONALE FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE REFTEL. I URGE PROMPT DEPARTMENT ATTENTION TO THE IDEAS CONTAINED THEREIN, AND TO THE NECESSARY PLANNING INVOLVED BEFORE GRENADA'S INDEPENDENCE

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IS UPON US.
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